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Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

Gabon:* draft resolution

Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the United Nations and its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind the guidelines for general and complete disarmament adopted at its tenth special session, the first special session devoted to disarmament,

Recalling its resolutions 43/78 H and 43/85 of 7 December 1988, 44/21 of 15 November 1989, 45/58 M of 4 December 1990, 46/37 B of 6 December 1991, 47/53 F of 15 December 1992, 48/76 A of 16 December 1993, 49/76 C of 15 December 1994, 50/71 B of 12 December 1995, 51/46 C of 10 December 1996 and 52/39 B of 9 December 1997,

Considering the importance and effectiveness of confidence-building measures taken at the initiative and with the participation of all States concerned, and taking into account the specific characteristics of each region, since such measures can contribute to regional disarmament and to international security, in accordance with the principles of the Charter,

Convinced that the resources released by disarmament, including regional disarmament, can be devoted to economic and social development and to the protection of the environment for the benefit of all peoples, in particular those of the developing countries,

* On behalf of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa.

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Convinced also that development can be achieved only in a climate of peace, security and mutual confidence both within and among States,

Bearing in mind the establishment by the Secretary-General on 28 May 1992 of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, the purpose of which is to encourage arms limitation, disarmament, non-proliferation and development in the subregion,

Recalling the Brazzaville Declaration on Cooperation for Peace and Security in Central Africa[1] and the Bata Declaration for the Promotion of Lasting Democracy, Peace and Development in Central Africa,[2]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on regional confidence-building measures,[3] which deals with the activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa in the period since the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution 52/39 B;

2. *Reaffirms its support* for efforts aimed at promoting confidence-building measures at regional and subregional levels in order to ease tensions and conflicts in the subregion and to further disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful settlement of disputes in Central Africa;

3. *Also reaffirms its support* for the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee adopted at the organizational meeting of the Committee held at Yaoundé in July 1992;

4. *Invites* the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee that have not yet signed the Non-Aggression Pact to do so, and encourages all member States to expedite ratification, being convinced that the entry into force of the Pact will effectively contribute to the prevention of conflicts in the Central African subregion;

5. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the programmes and activities of the Standing Advisory Committee for the period 1998-1999, adopted by the member States at the three meetings held in 1998[4] and at previous meetings,[5] which focus on:

(a) Organizing joint military exercises to strengthen the capacity of the countries of the Central African subregion to participate in peacekeeping operations;

(b) Supporting peace-building activities through training programmes and demining campaigns, demobilization, disarmament and reintegration of former combatants into civilian life;

(c) Establishing and ensuring the functioning of an early warning mechanism for Central Africa, based in Libreville;

(d) Establishing a subregional parliament as an instrument for the promotion of democratic values and the democratic experiment in Central Africa;

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[1] A/50/474, annex I.

[2] A/53/258-S/1998/763, annex II, appendix I.

[3] A/53/369.

[4] The meeting of Ministers of Defence and of the Interior, held in Libreville from 28 to 30 April 1998 (A/53/258-S/1998/763, annex I); the Subregional Conference on Democratic Institutions and Peace in Central Africa, held in Bata from 18 to 21 May 1998 (A/53/258-S/1998/763, annex II); and the Subregional Seminar on the Training of Trainers in Practical Disarmament Measures for the Consolidation of Peace for Senior Military and Civilian Officials held in Yaoundé from 27 to 31 July 1998.

[5] See A/52/293.

(e) Organizing a subregional seminar to train press professionals in the code of ethics of the communications profession as a means of promoting the ideals and culture of peace;

(f) Holding two annual meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee at the ministerial level in order to further consultations among the member States;

6. *Expresses its conviction* that the full implementation of those measures and activities will contribute to the promotion of confidence among the member States, the establishment of democracy and good governance and the consolidation of peace in the Central African subregion;

7. *Thanks* the Secretary-General for having established the Trust Fund for the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

8. *Appeals* to Member States and to governmental and non-governmental organizations to make additional voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the implementation of the programme of work of the Standing Advisory Committee, in particular the measures and objectives referred to in paragraph 5 above;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance to the States members of the Standing Advisory Committee to ensure that they are able to carry on with their efforts, being convinced that effective cooperation between the international community and the countries of the subregion can stimulate the search for peaceful solutions to the crises and conflicts that occur in the subregion;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session an item entitled "Regional confidence-building measures: activities of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa".